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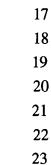
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transceivers, said one responder transceiver transmitting a response message to the second commander transceiver if the waiting period has expired and the second interrogation message specifies for response a set of one or more addresses which include the responder's address;

- (c) whereby any response message transmitted by said one responder transceiver to a second commander transceiver will not collide with any response message transmitted by another responder transceiver in response to the first interrogation message, thereby avoiding any false indication that two responder transceivers both have addresses belonging to said set of one or more addresses specified for response in the first interrogation message.
- 25. A method of addressing messages from a commander transceiver to a selected one or more of a number of responder transceivers, comprising the steps of:
- (A) establishing a first predetermined number of bits to be used for unique identification numbers, and establishing for each responder transceiver a unique identification number having said predetermined number of bits;
- (B) establishing a second predetermined number of bits to be used for arbitration addresses, the second number being less than the first number, and establishing a set of possible arbitration addresses having said second number of bits;
- (C) the commander transceiver transmitting a first Generate command message requesting responder transceivers which receive the first Generate command message to select a new arbitration address;
- (D) the commander transceiver transmitting an Identify command message requesting responder transceivers having arbitration addresses within a specified group of arbitration addresses to respond identifying themselves, said specified group being less than or equal to the entire set of possible arbitration addresses; and
- (E) after receiving the first Generate command message, each responder transceiver choosing an arbitration address from the set of possible arbitration addresses, wherein each responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of arbitration addresses chosen by all other responder transceivers; and
 - (F) after receiving the Identify command message, each responder transceiver
- (1) determining whether its chosen arbitration address is within the group specified in the Identify command message, and, only if it is, then
- (2) transmitting an Arbitration ID message containing its chosen arbitration address and transmitting a Unique ID message containing its unique identification number.
- 26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the Arbitration ID message and the Unique ID message transmitted by each responder transceiver are combined as a single message transmitted by said transponder.



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27. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the subsequent steps of:

in response to receiving Arbitration ID messages from different responder transceivers containing the same arbitration address, the commander transceiver transmitting a second Generate command message; and

in response to receiving the second Generate command message, each responder transceiver choosing an arbitration address from the set of possible arbitration addresses to replace its previously chosen arbitration address, wherein each responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of any arbitration addresses chosen by other responder transceivers.

28. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the subsequent steps of:

in response to receiving Arbitration ID messages from different responder transceivers containing the same chosen arbitration address, the commander transceiver transmitting a second Generate command message addressed to a specified group of arbitration addresses, wherein the group specified in the second Generate message includes said same chosen arbitration address and is less than or equal to the entire set of possible arbitration addresses; and

each responder transceiver which receives the second Generate command message:

- (i) determining whether its most recently chosen arbitration address is within the group of arbitration addresses specified in the second Generate command message, and, only if so, then
- (ii) choosing an arbitration address from the set of possible arbitration addresses to replace its previously chosen arbitration address, wherein said responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of any arbitration addresses chosen by other responder transceivers.

29. A method according to claim 25, wherein

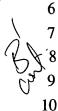
in response to receiving an undamaged Arbitration ID message containing the arbitration address of a responder transceiver, the commander transceiver transmitting a command message individually addressed to that responder transceiver; and

the step of each responder transceiver transmitting the Unique ID message is delayed until the responder transceiver receives said individually addressed command message from the commander transceiver.

30. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

providing in each responder transceiver a memory device which includes a Response Lock flag having a clear state and a set state;

the commander transceiver, before transmitting an Identify command message for the first time, transmitting a Clear Response Lock command message;



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each responder transceiver, upon receiving from the commander transceiver a Clear Response Lock command message, clearing the Response Lock flag within the transceiver;

after receiving an undamaged Arbitration ID message containing the arbitration address of a responder transceiver, the commander transceiver transmitting a Set Response Lock command message addressed to that responder transceiver;

each responder transceiver, upon receiving from the commander transceiver a Set Response Lock command message addressed to said responder transceiver, setting the Response Lock flag within the transceiver; and

each responder transceiver, after receiving an Identify command message:

- (i) determining whether the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver is set, and, if so, then
- (ii) not performing said step of transmitting an Arbitration ID message and a Unique ID message, irrespective of whether the arbitration address of said responder transceiver is within the group specified in the Identify command message.

21. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

providing in each responder transceiver a memory device which includes a Response Lock flag having a clear state and a set state;

the commander transceiver, before transmitting an Identify command message for the first time, transmitting a Clear Response Lock command message;

each responder transceiver, upon receiving from the commander transceiver a Clear Response Lock command message, clearing the Response Lock flag within the transceiver;

after receiving an undamaged Arbitration ID message containing the arbitration address of a responder transceiver, the commander transceiver transmitting a Set Response Lock command message addressed to that responder transceiver;

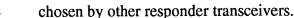
each responder transceiver, upon receiving from the commander transceiver a Set Response Lock command message addressed to said responder transceiver, setting the Response Lock flag within the transceiver;

in response to receiving Arbitration ID messages from different responder transceivers containing the same arbitration address, the commander transceiver transmitting a second Generate command message; and

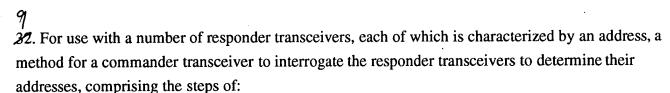
in response to receiving the second Generate command message, each responder transceiver:

- (i) determining whether the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver is clear, and, only if so, then
- (ii) choosing an arbitration address for said responder transceiver from the set of possible arbitration addresses to replace its previously chosen arbitration address, wherein each responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of any arbitration addresses





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- (A) providing in each responder transceiver a memory device which includes a Response Lock flag having a clear state and a set state;
 - (B) the commander transceiver transmitting a Clear Response Lock command message;
- (C) each responder transceiver which receives the Clear Response Lock command message clearing the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver;
- (D) the commander transceiver transmitting a number of Identify command messages, wherein each Identify command message requests each responder transceiver having an address within a specified group of addresses to identify itself, and wherein each respective group specified in each respective Identify command message is less than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses;
 - (E) each responder transceiver which receives an Identify command message:
- (1) determining whether the address of said responder transceiver is within the subset specified in the received Identify command message and determining whether said responder's Response Lock flag is clear, and, only if both determinations are true, then
- (2) transmitting an ID Response message containing the address of said responder transceiver;
 - (F) the commander transceiver:
- (1) determining whether it receives an undamaged ID Response message from a responder transceiver, and, if so, then
- (2) transmitting a Set Response Lock command message addressed to the responder transceiver from which the commander transceiver received the uncorrupted ID Response message; and
- (G) each responder transceiver which receives a Set Response Lock command message addressed to that responder transceiver:
 - setting the Response Lock flag within that responder transceiver.
- 23. A method for a commander transceiver to interrogate a number of responder transceivers to determine their addresses, comprising the steps of:
 - (A) establishing a set of possible addresses for the responder transceivers;
- (B) the commander transceiver transmitting a first Generate command message requesting responder transceivers having addresses within a specified group of addresses to generate new



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6	addresses, the specified group being less than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses;
7	(C) each responder transceiver which receives the first Generate command message:
8	only if the address of said responder transceiver is within the group specified in the
9	first Generate command message, assigning to itself an address within said set of possible addresses;
10	(D) the commander transceiver transmitting an Identify command message requesting
11	responder transceivers having addresses within a specified group of addresses to identify themselves,
12	wherein the group specified in the Identify command message is less than or equal to the entire set of
13	possible addresses;
14	(E) each responder transceiver which receives an Identify command message:
15	only if the address of said responder transceiver is within the group specified in the
16	received Identify command message, transmitting an ID Response message containing the address of
17	said responder transceiver;
18	(F) in response to receiving ID Response messages from a plurality of responder transceivers,
19	the commander transceiver:
20	(1) determining whether the ID Response messages sent by the responder transceivers
21	indicate a likelihood that any one of the addresses was assigned to two or more different responder
22	transceivers, and, if so, then
23	(2) transmitting a second Generate command message requesting responder
24	transceivers having addresses within a specified group of addresses to generate new addresses, the
25	specified group being less than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses;
2 6	(G) each responder transceiver which receives the second Generate command message:
³ 27	only if the address of said responder transceiver is within the group specified in the
28	second Generate command message, assigning to itself an address within said set of possible
29	addresses; and
30	(H) returning to Step (D) of the commander transceiver transmitting an Identify command
31	message.
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1	// 34. An interrogation method according to claim 33, wherein:
2	said Step (C) of assigning itself an address further comprises said responder transceiver
3	choosing its address from the set of possible addresses independently of other responder
4	transceivers' choosing their respective addresses; and
5	said Step (G) of assigning itself an address further comprises said responder transceiver
6	choosing its address from the set of possible addresses independently of other responder
7	transceivers' choosing their respective addresses.
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1	35. An interrogation method according to claim 33, wherein Step (F)(1) of the commander
2	transceiver determining whether any one of the addresses was assigned to two or more different



3	responder transceivers further comprises the sub-steps of:
4	repeating Steps (D) and (E) using different specified groups of addresses in successive
5	repetitions of Step (D); and
5	after each repetition of Step (E), the commander transceiver determining that none of the
7	individual addresses within the group specified in the Identify command message transmitted in the
8	preceding Step (D) was assigned to two or more different responder transceivers if the commander
9	transceiver receives an ID Response message from either zero or one responder transceiver during
0	said Step (E).
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1	36. An interrogation method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of:
2	in response to the commander transceiver receiving an undamaged ID Response message
3	from a responder transceiver, the commander transceiver transmitting a Data Transfer command
4	message individually addressed to said responder transceiver.
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1	37. An interrogation method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of:
2	after the commander transceiver transmits a Data Transfer command message individually
3	addressed to a responder transceiver, said responder transceiver transmitting to the commander
4	transceiver a message containing data acquired by said responder transceiver.
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1	28. An interrogation method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
2	in response to the commander transceiver receiving an undamaged ID Response message
3	from a responder transceiver, the commander transceiver transmitting a Set Response Lock
4	command message individually addressed to said responder transceiver; and
5	if said one responder transceiver receives the Set Response Lock command message, said
6	responder setting a Response Lock flag in a memory device within said responder transceiver.
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l	39. An interrogation method according to claim 36, wherein Step (G) further comprises the sub-steps
2	of:
3	before assigning to itself an address, each responder transceiver determining whether its
4	Response Lock flag is set, and, if so, then
5	not performing the step of assigning to itself an address in Step (G), irrespective of whether
5	its address is within the group specified in the second Generate command message, whereby the
7	responder transceiver retains its previously assigned address.
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1	40. An interrogation method according to claim 33, wherein the group specified in the second
2	Generate command message is the same as the group specified in the first Generate command
3	message.

1	18 M. An interrogation method according to claim 23, wherein the group specified in the second
2	Generate command message includes each of said addresses which was determined by the
3	commander transceiver in Step (F)(1) as having a likelihood of belonging to at least two responder
4	transceivers.
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1	42. A method for a commander transceiver to interrogate a number of responder transceivers to
2	determine their addresses, comprising the steps of:
3	(A) providing in each responder transceiver a memory device which includes a Response
4	Lock flag having a clear state and a set state;
5	(B) establishing a set of possible addresses for the responder transceivers;
6	(C) the commander transceiver transmitting a Clear and Generate command message;
7	(D) each responder transceiver which receives the Clear and Generate command message:
8	(1) clearing the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver,
3 9′	(2) assigning to itself an address chosen from said set of possible addresses, and
0	(3) transmitting an ID Response message containing the address of said responder
1	transceiver;
2	(E) the commander transceiver transmitting a Set Response Lock command message
.3	addressed to each responder transceiver from which the commander transceiver receives an
.4	uncorrupted ID Response message;
5	(F) each responder transceiver, upon receipt of a Set Response Lock command message
6	addressed to that responder transceiver, setting the Response Lock flag within that responder
7	transceiver;
.8	(G) the commander transceiver:
9	(1) determining whether the ID Response messages sent by the responder transceiver
20	indicate a likelihood that any one of the addresses was assigned to two or more different responder
1	transceivers, and, if so, then
22	(2) transmitting a Generate command message;
3	(H) each responder transceiver which receives the Generate command message:
4	(1) determining whether the Response Lock flag within that responder transceiver is
5	clear, and, if so, then
26	(2) assigning to itself an address chosen from said set of possible addresses, and
27	transmitting an ID Response message containing the address of said responder transceiver; and
8	(I) returning to Step (E) of the commander transceiver transmitting a Set Response Lock
29	command message.
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1	A3. A method according to claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

after transmitting the Clear and Generate command message, the commander transceiver transmitting a first Identify command message requesting responder transceivers having addresses within a specified group of addresses to identify themselves, wherein the group specified in the first Identify command message is less than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses; and

after transmitting the Generate command message, the commander transceiver transmitting a second Identify command message requesting responder transceivers having addresses within a specified group of addresses to identify themselves, wherein the group specified in the second Identify command message is less than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses;

wherein each responder transceiver delays transmitting an ID Response message until it receives from the commander transceiver an Identify command message specifying a group of addresses which includes the address of said responder transceiver.

Al. A method according to claim 43, wherein Step (G)(1) of the commander transceiver determining whether the ID Response messages indicate a likelihood of one address being assigned to different responders further comprises the sub-step of:

after each transmission of an Identify command message, the commander transceiver determining that none of the individual addresses within the group specified in said Identify message was assigned to different responder transceivers if the commander transceiver receives an ID Response message from either zero or one responder transceiver in response to said Identify command message.

43. A method according to claim 43, wherein the commander transceiver transmits the Clear and Generate command message in Step (C) concurrently with transmitting the first Identify command message, wherein the Clear and Generate command message and the first Identify command message are combined in a single transmitted message.

43, wherein:

- (a) said Step (D)(2) of assigning to itself an address further comprises said responder transceiver choosing its address independently of other responder transceivers' choosing their respective addresses; and
- (b) said Step (H)(2) of assigning to itself an address further comprises said responder transceiver choosing its address independently of other responder transceivers' choosing their respective addresses.
- A7. An interrogation method according to claim 43, wherein said Step (D)(3) performed by each responder transceiver further comprises the sub-steps of:
 - (a) before performing the sub-step of transmitting said ID Response message, determining

4	whether the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver is set, and, if so, then
5	(b) not performing the sub-step of transmitting said ID Response message, irrespective of
6	whether the address of said responder transceiver is within the group specified in a received Identify
7	command message.
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1	48. An interrogation method according to claim 42, wherein said Step (D)(3) performed by each
2	responder transceiver further comprises the sub-steps of:
3	(a) before performing the sub-step of transmitting said ID Response message, determining
4	whether the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver is set, and, if so, then
5	(b) not performing the sub-step of transmitting said ID Response message.
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1	49. An interrogation method according to claim 42, wherein said Step (F) of each responder
2	transceiver setting its Response Lock flag upon receipt of a Set Response Lock command message
3	further includes the sub-step of:
√ 4	said responder transceiver transmitting to the commander transceiver a message containing
× ⁴ 5 5	data acquired by the responder transceiver.
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1	50. A method for a commander transceiver to interrogate a number of responder transceivers to
2	determine their addresses, comprising the steps of:
.3	(A) providing in each responder transceiver a memory device which includes a Response
4	Lock flag having a clear state and a set state;
5	(B) establishing a set of possible addresses for the responder transceivers;
6	(C) the commander transceiver transmitting a Clear and Generate command message;
7	(D) each responder transceiver which receives the Clear and Generate command message:
8	(1) clearing a Response Lock flag in a memory device within that responder
9	transceiver, and
10	(2) assigning to itself an address by choosing its address from said set of possible
11	addresses independently of other responder transceivers' choosing their respective addresses;
12	(E) the commander transceiver selecting a subset of addresses which is less than or equal to
13	the entire set of possible addresses;
14	(F) the commander transceiver transmitting an Identify command message requesting
15	responder transceivers having addresses within a specified subset of addresses to identify
16	themselves, wherein the subset specified in the Identify command message is the subset last selected
17	by the commander transceiver;
18	(G) each responder transceiver which receives an Identify command message:
19	(1) determining whether the address of said responder transceiver is within the subset



specified in the received Identify command message, and, only if true, then

21	(2) transmitting an ID Response message containing the address of said responder
22	transceiver;
23	(H) the commander transceiver:
.4	(1) determining whether it receives an ID Response message from a responder
25	transceiver which is not corrupted by a collision with another message, and, if so, then
26	(2) transmitting a Set Response Lock command message addressed to the responder
:7	transceiver from which the commander transceiver received the uncorrupted ID Response message;
28	(I) each responder transceiver, upon receipt of a Set Response Lock command message
9	addressed to that responder transceiver, setting the Response Lock flag within that responder
80	transceiver;
1	(J) the commander transceiver determining whether the previously transmitted Identify
2	command messages specified every subset which could contain a unique responder transceiver, and
3	(1) if so, then performing Step (M), otherwise
34	(2) if not, then performing Step (K);
5	(K) the commander transceiver selecting a subset of addresses, the selected subset being less
36	than or equal to the entire set of possible addresses;
7	(L) returning to Step (F) of the commander transceiver transmitting a Identify command
8	message;
19	(M) the commander transceiver:
0	(1) determining whether the commander transceiver previously received colliding
1	messages in response to a previously transmitted Identify command message which specified a
2	subset containing only a single responder address, and, if so, then
13	(2) transmitting a Generate command message;
4	(N) each responder transceiver which receives the Generate command message:
5	(1) determining whether the Response Lock flag within that responder transceiver is
6	clear, and, if so, then
17	(2) assigning to itself an address by choosing its address from said set of possible
18	addresses independently of other responder transceivers' choosing their respective addresses; and
.9	(O) returning to Step (E) of the commander transceiver selecting a subset of addresses.
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1	51. An interrogation method according to claim 50, wherein said Step (K) of the commander
2	transceiver selecting a subset of addresses further comprises the selected subset being different from
3	the subset specified in the Identify command message last transmitted by the commander
4	transceiver.
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1	52. An interrogation method according to claim 50, wherein said Step (G) performed by each
2	responder transceiver further comprises the sub-steps of:

3	(a) before performing Sub-Step (G)(2) of transmitting said ID Response message,
4	determining whether the Response Lock flag within said responder transceiver is set, and, if so, then
5	(b) not performing Sub-Step (G)(2) of transmitting said ID Response message, irrespective of
6	the address determination in Sub-Step (G)(1).
	30, 53. An interrogation method according to claim 50, wherein said Step (I) of each responder
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2	transceiver setting its Response Lock flag upon receipt of a Set Response Lock command message
3	further includes the sub-step of:
4	said responder transceiver transmitting to the commander transceiver a message containing
5	data acquired by the responder transceiver.
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1	54. An interrogation method according to claim 50, wherein the commander transceiver transmits
2	the Clear and Generate command message in Step (C) concurrently with transmitting the Identify
3	command message in the first performance of Step (F), wherein the Clear and Generate command
4	message and the Identify command message are combined in a single transmitted message.
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1	55. A method for a responder communications transceiver to identify itself in response to messages
2	received from a commander communications transceiver, comprising the steps of:
3	establishing a set of possible responder arbitration addresses; and
4	in response to receiving a first Generate command message from a commander transceiver,
5	said responder transceiver assigning to itself an arbitration address by randomly choosing a first
6	address from the set of possible responder arbitration addresses;
7	wherein said responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of
8	arbitration addresses chosen by any other responder transceiver.
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1	56. A method according to claim 55, wherein the responder transceiver performs the step of
2	choosing its arbitration address only if the arbitration address of the responder currently is within a
3	group of addresses specified in the first Generate command message.
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1	31. A method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of:
2	in response to receiving a second Generate command message from the commander
3	transceiver, said responder transceiver randomly choosing a second address from the set of possible
4	responder addresses and assigning to itself as its arbitration address the second address in place of
5	the first address.
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1	38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the responder transceiver performs the step of

choosing a second address as its arbitration address only if the arbitration address of the responder



currently is within a group of addresses specified in the second Generate command message.

3 φ 59. A method according to claim 55, further comprising the step of:

after the step of choosing its arbitration address, the responder transceiver transmitting an Arbitration ID message containing its chosen arbitration address.

60. A method according to claim 59, wherein the responder transceiver performs the step of transmitting an Arbitration ID message only after the responder transceiver receives from the commander transceiver an Identify command message which specifies for response a group of addresses which includes the arbitration address of the responder transceiver.

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81. A method according to claim 59, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving from the commander transceiver a message individually addressed to said responder, setting a Response Lock flag in a memory device within the responder transceiver.

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62. A method according to claim 61, wherein the step of setting the Response Lock flag further comprises said responder transceiver transmitting to the commander transceiver a message containing data stored in a data memory device within the responder transceiver.

63. A method according to claim 61, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving a second Generate command message from the commander transceiver, and only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set, said responder transceiver choosing a second random address from the set of possible responder addresses and assigning to itself as its arbitration address the second random address in place of the first random address.

41 38 64. A method according to claim 67, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving from the commander transceiver an Identify command message which specifies for response a group of addresses which includes the arbitration address of the responder transceiver, and only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set, said responder transceiver transmitting an Arbitration ID message containing its chosen arbitration address.

42 36 55. A method according to claim 59, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving from the commander transceiver a Set Response Lock command message addressed to said responder transceiver, said responder transceiver setting a Response Lock flag in a memory device within the responder transceiver.

66. A method according to claim 65, wherein the step of setting the Response Lock flag further



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comprises said responder transceiver transmitting to the commander transceiver a message containing data stored in a data memory device within the responder transceiver.

67. A method according to claim 65, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving a second Generate command message from the commander transceiver, and only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set, said responder transceiver choosing a second random address from the set of possible responder addresses and assigning to itself as its arbitration address the second random address in place of the first random address.

68. A method according to claim 65, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving from the commander transceiver an Identify command message which specifies for response a group of addresses which includes the arbitration address of the responder transceiver, and only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set, said responder transceiver transmitting an Arbitration ID message containing its chosen arbitration address.

69. A method for a responder transceiver to identify itself in response to messages received from a commander transceiver, comprising the steps of:

- (a) establishing for said responder transceiver a unique identification number having a first number of bits;
- (b) establishing a set of possible arbitration addresses, wherein each arbitration address has a second number of bits, the second number being less than the first number;
- (c) in response to receiving a first Generate command message from a commander transceiver, said responder transceiver assigning to itself an arbitration address by randomly choosing a first address from said set of possible responder arbitration addresses, wherein said responder transceiver chooses its arbitration address independently of arbitration addresses chosen by any other responder transceiver; and
- (d) in response to receiving from the commander transceiver an Identify command message which specifies for response a group of addresses which includes the arbitration address of the responder transceiver:
- (i) said responder transceiver transmitting an Arbitration ID message containing its chosen arbitration address, and
- (ii) said responder transceiver transmitting a Unique ID message containing its unique identification number.

76. A method according to claim 69, wherein the step of said responder transceiver transmitting the Unique ID message is delayed until the responder transceiver receives from the commander transceiver a message individually addressed to said responder's arbitration address.

M. A method according to claim 69, wherein the Arbitration ID message and the Unique ID message are combined as a single transmitted message.

49 72. A method according to claim 69, further comprising the steps of:

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in response to receiving a second Generate command message from the commander transceiver, said responder transceiver choosing a second random address from the set of possible responder addresses and assigning to itself as its arbitration address the second random address in place of the first random address.

73. A method according to claim 22, wherein the responder transceiver performs the step of choosing a second random address and assigning the second address as its arbitration address only if the arbitration address of the responder currently is within a group of addresses specified in the second Generate command message.

74. A method according to claim 69, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving from the commander transceiver a message individually addressed to said responder's arbitration address, setting a Response Lock flag in a memory device within the responder transceiver.

73. A method according to claim 74, further comprising the step of:

in response to receiving a second Generate command message from the commander transceiver, and only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set, said responder transceiver choosing a second random address from the set of possible responder addresses and assigning to itself as its arbitration address the second random address in place of the first random address.

6.3 %. A method according to claim 74, wherein said responder transceiver performs the step of transmitting an Arbitration ID message only if said responder's Response Lock flag is not set.

REMARKS

Claim 1 is cancelled. The only claims now pending are the newly added claims 24–76.

Claim 24 is directed to an aspect of Applicant's invention for which no claims were presented in the parent application. Specifically, claim 24 is directed to a method of avoiding confusion when two commander transceivers are communicating with the same responder transceiver. In the claimed invention, if the two commander transceivers send interrogation messages close together in time, the responder does not respond to the second commander until after a certain time has elapsed following the interrogation message from the first transceiver.